

Director of USPTO
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The United States of America has been so successful as a nation of people, compared to the rest of the world for these reasons:

- We have had more freedom from interference from those responsible for governing
- Consequently we developed a culture that encourages and enhances improvement
- As a result we developed a unique system of intellectual property protection and respect for the inventive.

What you propose in your "International Effort To Harmonize Substantive Requirements Of Patent Laws" will undermine all of the above:

- The government negates the inventive process by allowing anyone, first in line, to confiscate the creative thoughts of others. This is a form of theft that the government will encourage/allow by its laws and enforcement of them.
- This endangerment of rights to one's own creativity will devastate our culture of improvement.
- The critical protection and respect for the inventive will be ripped out of our unique system - and a system that history has proven much less productive will be implemented. Consequently we will shrivel to the lower levels of the rest of the world.

America has always been rewarded for being less like the rest of the world. Therefore we cannot afford to imitate others if it diminishes us to discouraging inventive behavior.

Today we have to have more incentive to create and improve than ever before. Why? Because we are in an era of rapid change that is bursting in intensity, at a constantly increasing pace. Competition is exploding.

Our largest export has been jobs in traditional industries. If we don't remain to be the most inventive nation we will soon see the jobs in our most advanced industries exported.

Then where will we be?

This worldwide patent agreement is extremely dangerous for our nation. You will harm, not help the already burdensome tasks confronting the inventive.

Let's not whittle America down to the lower level of cultural incentives practiced by the rest of the world.

Please don't let it happen.

Sincerely,



Tom E. Workman
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